IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

HASEGAWA et al

Atty. Ref.: 1417-370

Serial No. 09/991,874

Group: 1754

Filed: November 26, 2001

Examiner:

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING

CARBON BLACK, AND FURNACE COMBUSTION

APPARATUS AND FURNACE COMBUSTION METHOD

April 5, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Attention is invited to the attached documents which may be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b). A completed Form PTO-1449 is also attached.

Official citation and consideration of all the attached documents is requested. Please return to the undersigned a copy of the attached PTO-1449 with the examiner's initials in the left column [MPEP §609] with the next communication.

The filing of an Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made [37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g)], an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability or that no other material information exists. Further, the filing of an Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner [Commissioner's Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 12-25 at 25].

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Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: Arthur R. Crawford

Reg. No. 25,327

ARC:lsp

j

1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor

Arlington, VA 22201-4714

Telephone: (703) 816-4000 Facsimile: (703) 816-4100